

16 November 1956

Colonel White.

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: CIA Club at Langley

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1. At the last meeting of the Building Steering Committee the question was raised as to whether a CIA clubhouse at Langley did not afford many advantages particularly inasmuch as the new building will be unable to accommodate any concessions. As a result of this discussion, an informal committee was convened by the undersigned composed of Col. Edwards representing Security, Mr. Reynolds representing Personnel, Mr. Houston and Mr. [redacted] representing the DD/S, Mr. [redacted] representing the DD/P, and Mr. [redacted] representing the DD/I. The purpose of the meeting was to determine whether there was genuine interest in organizing a CIA club to be located near the new building at Langley, Virginia, and if so, to discuss the methods of proceeding with the organization.

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2. The General Counsel reported that he believed there were no insoluble legal problems in connection with building a club on government property. The club building would become government property and there would be an agreement with the government for its maintenance and use by the club members. The General Counsel's office had looked into the matter of concessions at the Pentagon and the methods by which the profits from these concessions were used to further employee welfare programs. It was pointed out that the building would be built at no cost to the government and maintained at no cost to the government. There was a brief discussion as to the best method of organizing such a club and it was generally agreed that a corporate structure might be best, with club employees security cleared by CIA but actually paid by the corporation. Perhaps CIA would need one officer to direct the activities of the club under the general supervision of a board of directors.

3. It was suggested that the best method of initial financing would be to solicit Agency employees for membership and establish initiation fees based on the general grade of the employee--perhaps starting with a fee of \$200 for the senior grades and fees in descending order so that most employees could afford to belong to the club. The annual fees would be on a similar graduated basis. In addition to the membership fees, the club would be supported by the profits from the concessions in the club building. It was generally agreed that it would be important for employee morale and as a saving of a considerable number of man-hours to have at least the following concessions in the club building: a post office, a bank, a beauty shop, a barber shop, a drug store and perhaps others such as a department store, a bakery shop, book store, and boothblack similar to those in the Pentagon. It was thought that the concessions could be on the ground floor or basement floor of the

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club building and that all Agency employees, whether members of the club or not, would have access to these concessions. It was further agreed that the wives and husbands and immediate family members of employees could be issued cards to enable them to use the concessions at any time and the club building at certain hours. It was envisioned that the club could be designed for expansion and that the initial building, in addition to the concessions, would include lounges, dining rooms, kitchens, a bar, etc. As money became available from membership fees and concession profits, this could be expanded to include such additional facilities as bowling alleys, squash courts, a swimming pool, tennis courts and perhaps ultimately a 9-hole golf course. It was agreed that having such recreational facilities in the immediate vicinity of the building would not only be important for employee morale but also would assist in maintaining the health of the employees. There was general discussion of the location of the club building and it was agreed that it should be within a very few minutes walking distance from the Agency building and perhaps immediately adjacent to the parking areas. It was unanimously agreed that the club would be open only to CIA employees and not to any of the other residents of the area. The committee was of the opinion that if there was sufficient interest in the Agency to back such a club that we should submit the proposal at an early date to the architects so that a design could be prepared that would be in harmony with the Agency building. It was believed that the club could be financed by securing membership from Agency employees with the understanding should they leave the Agency before the move to Langley their membership fees would be refunded. It was felt that perhaps as much as \$250,000 could be raised in this fashion which would be an ample collateral for securing any loans necessary.

4. The committee felt that in building such a club, and particularly the housing of concessions in the club, would do a great deal for the Agency's public relations in the area. It is noted that the Agency has assured the residents of the area that the suburban residential character of the neighborhood will not be changed. The Director wrote a letter to this effect to the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County. The committee felt that if it were known at an early date that the Agency had organized such a club and that it was organizing to have concessions, it would discourage the building of such type concessions in the residential area around the building.

5. To determine the interest in the Agency for such a club, it was agreed that the representatives of each of the deputies would arrange for a brief discussion at their Deputy's staff meeting during the week of 19 November using this memorandum as a point of departure. It was further suggested that at the Deputy's staff meeting the head of each component be requested to take this memorandum and discuss the matter at his own staff meeting. Should the above meetings indicate sufficient interest, a questionnaire would be sent to each Agency employee on which they could indicate interest in the club. If this showed sufficient interest, the organizational plans could then be pursued.

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Lester B. Kirkpatrick
Inspector General

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